

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03217 181404Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 /073 W  
-----071540 191044Z /13

R 172320Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7132  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU  
SUBJECT: FSLN LEADER ESCOBAR KILLED ESTELI

1. JOSE BENITO ESCOBAR WHO OCCUPIED THE POSITION OF SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF THE FSLN AND WAS ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN CUBA FOR  
SEVERAL YEARS WAS, ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD, KILLED IN  
A SHOOT OUT IN ESTELI ON JULY 14.

2. PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA OF ESCOBAR'S DEATH STATE THAT  
ESCOBAR WAS SHOT FROM A CAR AND HIS BODY WAS LEFT UNATTENDED  
FOR NEARLY AN HOUR BEFORE A RED CROSS AMBULANCE TOOK THE BODY  
TO A HOSPITAL WHERE THE GN LATER CLAIMED THE BODY AND BURIED  
HIM SECRETLY. ESCOBAR'S WIFE STATES THE BODY WAS NOT HER HUS-  
BAND, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER SHE SAW THE BODY OR ONLY PHO-  
TOGRAPHS.

3. ESCOBAR HAD A LONG HISTORY IN THE FSLN AND WAS A PRISONER  
AS A RESULT OF A KIDNAP ATTEMPT AT THE TIME OF THE DECEMBER  
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1974 LOS ROBLES KIDNAPPING BY THE FSLN WHICH SECURED HIS AND OTHERS  
RELEASE AND FLIGHT TO CUBA. IN CUBA, ESCOBAR WAS A SPOKESMAN  
FOR THE FSLN ON RADIO HAVANA.

4. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT DEFINITE THAT THE BODY WAS ESCOBAR,  
THE GN AND JOURNALISTS ARE ACCEPTING AS FACT THE IDENTIFICATION.  
ESCOBAR WAS REPORTEDLY IN POSSESSION OF A PISTOL, TWO CLIPS,

AND A HAND GRENADE AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. IT SEEMS QUESTIONABLE, HOWEVER, IF THE VERSION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS IS TRUE, THAT THE DEATH RESULTED FROM SHOOTOUT INASMUCH AS THE GUN DID NOT IMMEDIATELY TAKE POSSESSION OF THE BODY AS THEY WOULD HAVE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES.  
SOLAUN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MANAGU03217  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780296-0173  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANAGUA  
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**Line Count:** 68  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 3fed7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1987684  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FSLN LEADER ESCOBAR KILLED ESTELI  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, NU, FSLN, (ESCOBAR, JOSE BENITO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3fed7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014